**Region: Mesoamérica**

Countries included: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua

**Color Key:**

No data or not enough to justify Grey;

Adverse or hostile conditions for IPLCs in the country Red;

Limited/conflicting progress in achieving IPLC recognition, rights, and supporting legal frameworks Yellow;

Strong legal frameworks, recognition, and willingness to support IPLC rights Green.

**Legal Framework, Scale of Recognition, & Government Willingness**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Legal Framework** | **Scale of Recognition vs actual IPLC governance** | **Government willingness** |
| Belize (terrestrial | The National Court has ruled in favor of the recognition of IPLC tenure. Otherwise no data available - refer to EOIs. | No data available on the recognition of IPLC lands and waters in Belize, either through [LandMark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied) or RRI.  According to Landmark, substantial areas of the country are occupied by IPLCs. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| Belize (marine) | According to [Too-Big to Ignore,](https://issfcloud.toobigtoignore.net/) there is a basis for co-management / governance of fisheries with IPLCs in Belize and property rights are held communally although further details about the management regimes are unavailable. | According to [Too Big to Ignore](https://issfcloud.toobigtoignore.net/) the fisheries were reported as being under either :   * Top-down governance * Co-management / co-governance | No data-refer to EOIs. |
| Costa Rica (terrestrial) | Costa Rica’s legal framework appears to recognize Indigenous ownership of land under the Territorios Indigenas Tenure Regime.  (Source: RRI. 2015. Who owns the world’s land) | ~ 0.33 Mha of lands have been recognized by the government as owned by IPLCs, representing 6.4% of the country’s total land area.  (Source: RRI. 2015. Who owns the world’s land)  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), substantial areas of the country’s southeast and north are occupied by IPLCs - more than the level of government recognition seems to suggest. No specific data exists on total claims. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| Costa Rica (marine) | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| El Salvador (terrestrial) | No data - refer to EOIs. | However, according to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied),There is a government effort to demarcate and title indigenous lands, but the reviewed literature did not provide estimates of the amount of land held and/or used by Indigenous peoples and communities in the country nor the type of recognition this confers. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| El Salvador (marine) | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| Guatemala (terrestrial) | Guatemala’s legal framework provides a basis for recognizing IPLC ownership or control (community concessions) of lands and forests. However, there are inadequate subordinate laws and regulations to meaningfully implement and secure these rights.  (Source: RRI Opportunity Framework) | ~ 1.4 MHa have been recognized by the government as owned by IPLCs and another ~0.38 MHa are under community concessions.This represents 16% of the country’s total land area.  (Source: RRI 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands?)  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), substantial areas of the country are occupied by IPLCs - much more than official recognition seems to suggest- but there is no specific data on total claims. | There seems to be little political or administrative will at the national level to support the recognition of IPLC lands - with a strong favor for extractives. However, there is some interest at provincial level, as evidenced by the ongoing negotiations for renewal of community concessions in Peten  (Source: RRI Opportunity Framework) |
| Guatemala (marine) | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| Honduras (terrestrial) | Honduras’s legal framework provides a basis to recognize IPLC ownership (private tribal land and Miskito coastal communities) or control (forest management contracts and micro-watersheds) of lands and forests. | ~ 1.1 MHa have been recognized by the government as owned by IPLCs and another ~0.5 MHa are designated for IPLC communities. Together, this represents 14% of the country’s total land area.  Much of this recognition is found along the Miskito coast.  (Source: RRI 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands?)  However, according to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), substantial areas of the country are occupied by IPLCs - much more than official recognition seems to suggest. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| Honduras (marine) | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. | No data - refer to EOIs. |
| México (terrestrial) | México’s legal framework provides a strong foundation for the recognition of IPLC ownership of lands and forests (Ejidos and Communidades). | ~101 MHa have been recognized by the government as owned by IPLCs.  The reforms recognizing IPLC ownership of lands and forests stems from the 1920s - and virtually all claims appear to have been recognized by the government.  (Source: RRI Opportunity Framework) | There appears to be strong political support for IPLC governance of lands and resources at the federal and sub-national levels.  (Source: RRI Opportunity Framework) |
| Mexico (marine) | According to [Too-Big to Ignore,](https://issfcloud.toobigtoignore.net/) there is a basis for co-management / governance of fisheries with IPLCs in Mexico although further details about the management regimes are unavailable. | According to [Too Big to Ignore](https://issfcloud.toobigtoignore.net/) the fisheries were reported as being under either :   * Top-down governance * Co-management / co-governance * Community-based management * Self-management   It is not clear if the self-governance and community based management have been recognized by the government. | No data- refer to EOI. |
| Nicaragua (terrestrial) | Refer to EOI. - There appears to be a legal framework for the recognition of IPLC lands or resources in Nicaragua, although no further details are available from the current sources on the type of recognition. | According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 17 of the 23 indigenous and afro-descendant territories the Government engaged to title have been formally documented, totaling 2.25 Mha - 17.3% of the country land area.  Almost all recognition to date seems to have taken place in the north and southeast areas - especially along the Carribean coast.  Another 3.98 Mha are claimed by IPLCs but haven’t been recognized yet. | No data- refer to EOI. |
| Nicaragua (marine) | No data- refer to EOI. | No data- refer to EOI. | No data- refer to EOI. |
| Panama (terrestrial) | Refer to EOI. - There appears to be a legal framework for the recognition of IPLC lands or resources in Panama (Comarcas), although further details are needed on the type of recognition that confers. | According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), the government has recognized 1.67 Mha as Comarcas, representing 22% of the country’s total land area.Most recognition appears to have taken place on the northeastern and north western coasts.  Another 0.65 Mha remains unrecognized. | No data- refer to EOI. |
| Panama (marine) | According to [Too-Big to Ignore,](https://issfcloud.toobigtoignore.net/) the only fishery management system identified was top-down / hierarchical governance. This does not mean that other governance forms are not available, only that the available data does not show it. | According to [Too Big to Ignore](https://issfcloud.toobigtoignore.net/) the only fisheries was reported as being under top-down governance, which excludes IPLCs. Other forms of governance may exist but were not reported. | No data - refer to EOI. |